

The Library Assistant:

The Official Journal of the Library Assistants' Association.

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Published Monthly

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Second Meeting of the present Session will be held in the **Mocatta Library, University College, Gower Street, W.C.**, at 7.30 p.m. on **Wednesday, 12th November**. Dr. R. W. Chambers, Librarian of University College, has kindly given permission for all the Libraries to be open for inspection from 6 o'clock onwards, and Mr. Luxmore Newcombe with other members of the staff will explain the methods in operation. As the Libraries contain about 150,000 volumes, this will be a splendid opportunity for those interested to acquaint themselves with the system employed in administering a large collection of books.

The business proceedings of the evening will be in the nature of a conference to consider the possible developments of the relations between the Public Library and the Elementary School. Dr. Chambers will take the Chair, and two papers will be read: one by **Mrs. A. M. E. Frayer, A.C.P.**, Head Mistress of the L.C.C. School, Bromley Hall Road, Poplar, E., the other by **Mr. Thomas R. Rand**, Head Master, L.C.C. School, Marner Street, Bromley-by-Bow, E.

Teachers, members of Education Committees and others interested in this kind of work with children will be invited; it is also hoped that there will be a good attendance of our own members and friends, and in view of the possibility of the discussion having a far-reaching influence, it will be to the advantage of all concerned, if those whose experience in this direction makes their opinion of value will endeavour to be present, in order that the discussion may be led to wise conclusions. In his letter to the Association, which appears on another page, the Rt. Hon. H. A. L. Fisher, M.P., expresses the hope that co-operation between the Library and the School will develop, and this phrase may be regarded as significant at a time when the control of the Library is about to be transferred to the Board of Education. The readers of the papers are responsible teachers who take a special interest in this phase of their work, and it may be expected that they will have suggestive and helpful criticism to make.

COUNCIL VACANCY.

Owing to the resignation of Mr. J. Warner, consequent upon his appointment to the Librarianship of Newport (Mon.), a vacancy is created on the non-London side of the Council, and this will be filled at the November General Meeting. Nominations should reach the Hon. Secretary, Bromley Library, Brunswick Road, London, E. 14, not later than Monday, November 10th.

NORTH-WESTERN BRANCH.

A Meeting will be held at the Harris Free Public Library and Museum, Preston, on Wednesday, November 19th, at 3 p.m., by kind permission of W. B. Barton, Esq., Librarian, Curator and Art Director.

Members and friends who intend to be present are requested to notify the Hon. Secretary by November 15th.

REGINALD G. WILLIAMS,

Public Libraries, Bolton.

Hon. Secretary,

LETTER FROM THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

(Addressed to the Honorary Secretary, and read at the Inaugural Meeting, 15th October, 1919).

Board of Education,

Whitehall, London, S.W. 1.

13th October, 1919.

Dear Sir,

I much regret that the pressure of my Ministerial duties has made it impossible for me to be present and address the members of the Library Assistants' Association on the occasion of their 25th Inaugural Meeting. I am aware of the active interest which your Association has shown since its formation in the development of Public Libraries and in the improvement of the qualifications of its members and of Libraries generally, and I have much pleasure in sending them a message of congratulation and encouragement.

The Library service is always important from an educational and social point of view and its importance grows with the development of Education and the improvement of the social conditions of the country. Its success must, in large measure, depend on the interest taken by the public, and it is gratifying to think that in this country the value of Libraries is becoming more and more widely recognised and appreciated. I welcome the work of your Association in assisting the growth of this public recognition and I feel confident that the efforts of such bodies as yours can do much to raise the status of Libraries and to place them in the position which they ought to occupy in this country.

The profession of a Librarian is one that requires special qualifications. Careful training is or should be an essential preliminary, but the good Librarian must also have judgment, method, taste and a genuine love of literature. The choice, care and arrangement of books is a work which involves great responsibility and demands high qualities, but above all this a Librarian must be an educator in a true sense, introducing those who come to the Library to the treasures that it contains, guiding their literary pursuits and stimulating their nascent enthusiasms. I hope that the Library Assistants' Association will continue to aim at improving the professional qualifications of its members and providing them with those valuable facilities for exchanging views on matters of common interest and library technique which it has hitherto afforded.

The recent remarkable growth of interest in Education among all classes of the community is bound to re-act on the Library movement, and I hope that as time goes on the Schools and the Libraries will work more and more closely together. I welcome the enthusiasm of your Association and I wish you all success in the larger future which is opening out before you.

Your very truly,
(Signed) H. A. L. FISHER.

INAUGURATION OF THE SCHOOL OF LIBRARIANSHIP.

The School of Librarianship at University College, London, was inaugurated in the presence of a large and representative company on Wednesday, 8th October. The chair was occupied by the Provost, Sir Gregory Foster, who apologised for the unavoidable absence of the Vice-Chancellor. He announced that about thirty full-time students and more than forty part-time students had already been enrolled. He proceeded to outline the origin of the School, of which the Library Association, and, in particular, Sir John MacAlister and his colleagues had been the prime movers. He especially emphasised the fact that the School was part and parcel of the University, and that students would be enabled to make use of all the other departments of study. It was felt that the time had arrived for librarianship to be put on a better footing, not only in training; but when one considered the rewards it was amazing that the profession had managed as well as it had. The whole status of librarianship, including salary, should be improved.

Sir Frederic Kenyon, Director and Principal Librarian of the British Museum, then delivered an inspiring address on what might be called "the ideals of librarianship." He regarded the establishment of this School as a landmark in the progress of librarianship; it meant that the University recognized librarianship as a profession in which a University course of training might be given. We were properly drawing lessons from the experiences of the War, and one of the most vital was the importance to the nation of the cultivation of the mind and the spirit. There were signs that the Government was prepared to make more grants for education, and that they would attend more to the needs of experts. The more progressive leaders of industry were beginning to see that expenditure on education might be as profitable as expenditure on rubber. The librarian, properly trained, was a most important agent in that direction. The library was a storehouse of knowledge and a magazine of the finest thoughts; and of that storehouse the librarian held the keys. The establishment of this School ought to go far towards convincing people that librarianship was a profession making high demands upon those who practised it. The requirements of a librarian were almost appalling. He must know how to lay hands upon anything, and how to arrange and classify it; he should be on the look-out to develop the intellectual life of the neighbourhood in which he lived. He hoped that the training of the librarian would be a training in the proper spirit of librarianship.

A vote of thanks to Sir Frederic Kenyon was moved by the Director, Dr. E. A. Baker, who thought that the very existence

of the School would be a force in the establishment of a better ideal of librarianship, of which there had been hitherto two views—the mechanical ideal and the intellectual ideal. He had heard a leading representative of the former say that he did not want an educated (*i.e.*, highly educated) assistant. He preferred uneducated persons (*i.e.*, those from elementary schools), whom he could train in his own way. But the library was an intellectual institution, and mechanical efficiency should be subservient to humanism and learning. A liberal education was the right basis for librarianship, according to the better ideal, and the object of the new School would be to provide an efficient training on this foundation. The motion was ably seconded by Mr. H. R. Tedder.

PROCEEDINGS.

By kind invitation of the Chemical Society, the Inaugural Meeting of the Twenty-Fifth Session was held in the Society's rooms on Wednesday, 15th October. Visitors were afforded an opportunity for examining the main library, after which refreshments were generously served. The chair was occupied by Professor J. M. Thomson, chairman of the library committee, and the minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved. Messrs. G. P. Jones, B.A., of the Stepney Public Libraries, and Mr. Luxmore Newcombe, of University College Library, having been nominated for the seat on the Council rendered vacant through the resignation of Mr. W. G. Hawkins, a vote was taken, and Mr. Newcombe was declared elected. A letter was read from the Rt. Hon. H. A. L. Fisher, Minister of Education, regretting inability to be present, and is printed elsewhere in our columns. Professor Thomson extended a cordial welcome to the Association, and referred to the changes through which Librarianship appeared to be passing, especially through the establishment of the School of Librarianship, which he regarded as marking an epoch in our history, and as giving distinction to the librarian; he also referred to the growing demand for technical libraries.

Professor John Adams, author of "The Student's Guide" and other works, delivered a suggestive address on the contrast between the man and the book as an educational agent. He laid stress upon the necessity for the human touch in education. The perfect education demanded the combination of the personal element and of the book. At the very moment when there was a talk of libraries coming under the Board of Education there was an outcry against bookishness. Education was too bookish we were being told. This outcry was really against the use of books in the wrong place. Books were not *less* important to-day; they were *more* important than ever, because to-day, with such a wide range of knowledge, we could never have such a large scope as we had in the old days. We were enabled to keep our balance by the proper use of books. The library was coming now definitely into the sphere of education. It had never been out of it, but in the past it had not been an educational instrument in the technical sense of the term. Its work had been to supply the things people wanted; it had not been the business of the librarian to tell people what books to read. The popular attitude towards the library was that it existed to provide what was asked for. If people asked advice it was given willingly, but if it was done deliberately the public resented it. Those days had gone, and we were now becoming a part of the educational system of the country, and would take our part in guiding the reading of the public. We should take up the attitude of feeling it our duty to guide people to read the right kind of books. Formerly we were merely

supplying a demand; now we must *create* the demand. Professor Adams warmly advocated the establishment of properly equipped children's rooms. He was of opinion that children would learn more in such rooms than in their ordinary school course, for their education was being put to practical use. The speaker referred to the Patent Rooms so common in America, to the need for travelling libraries and the provision of duplicate copies of works in great demand. It was a curious fact that some libraries were regarded as a kind of museum in which one specimen only of a book was regarded as sufficient. The duplication he suggested would be very costly but it was nevertheless eminently desirable. The proceedings terminated with the usual votes of thanks.

NORTH-WESTERN BRANCH.

Fifth Annual Report, 1918-1919.

To the Members of the North-Western Branch, *Library Assistants' Association.*

The Committee have pleasure in presenting their Fifth Annual Report showing the work of the Branch for the Session 1918-19.

Membership. The total membership of the Branch is 62, comprising 6 Fellows, 27 Members, and 29 Associates, being a decrease of 5 on last year.

Meetings. The last Annual Meeting was held at Bolton, on Wednesday, October 16th, 1918, and during this year only one meeting was held, this taking place at the Wigan Public Library, on Wednesday, June 4th, 1919. The best thanks of the Committee are due to Archibald Sparke, Esq., F.R.S.L., and A. H. Mee, Esq., for hospitality.

Resignations. During the year 1 Fellow, 3 Members, and 4 Associates have resigned. In nearly every case the cause of resignation is "left the profession."

Obituary. It is with much regret that the Committee have to record the deaths of Capt. O. J. Sutton, of the Manchester Libraries, and Mr. J. A. Merrishaw, a late member of the Branch.

Finance. The total income for the Session is £6 9s.; out of this amount, £4 1s. was paid to the parent body as proportion of fees due to them. Other expenses amounted to £2 16s. 5½d., leaving a debit balance on the year's working of 8s 5½d. Having a balance in hand from last year of £3 11s. 6d., we are able to carry forward the sum of £3 3s. 0½d.

Election of Officers and Committee for Session 1919-20.

The following Officers were elected for Session 1919-20.

President : Mr. James Ross, F.L.A., Public Libraries, Liverpool.

Vice-Presidents : Richard Ashton, Esq., F.L.A., Public Libraries, Blackburn.

Ben H. Mullen, Esq., M.A., F.L.A., .. Salford.

C. W. Madeley, Esq., F.L.A., .. Warrington.

Joseph Pomfret, Esq., F.L.A., .. Darwen.

Archibald Sparke, Esq., F.R.S.L., F.L.A..., Bolton.

Vice-Chairman : Mr. James Hindle, Deputy Librarian, Blackburn.

Hon. Sec. and Treas.: Mr. Reginald G. Williams, F.L.A., Central Lending Library, Bolton.

Assist. Hon. Sec. and Treas.: Mr. Wilfred Smith, F.L.A., Public Library, Bolton.

Committee : Miss E. A. Bamber, Accrington; Miss L. Cross, Manchester; Mr. Harry Fostall, Manchester; Mr. W. G. Fry, F.L.A., Manchester; Mr. J. D. Gifford, F.L.A., Bolton; Mr. Frank Helliwell, Preston; Miss Emily Hogarth, Bolton; Miss Maud Quinn, Bolton; Mr. T. L. Yates, M.L.A., Bolton; Mr. M. Jackson Wrigley, Stockport.

Auditor : Mr. James Cranshaw, Bolton.

The Committee again appeal to all members to use their influence with their colleagues and thus secure as many members as possible.

On behalf of the Committee,

ARCHIBALD SPARKE, Hon. President.

JOHN D. GIFFORD, Chairman.

27th August, 1919.

REGINALD G. WILLIAMS, Hon. Secretary.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for Session, 1918-19.

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Subscriptions :—			Proportion of Subscriptions paid to Hon. Treasurer,		
1 Fellow... ...	0	4 0	L.A.A.	4	1 0
14 Members ...	3	10 0	Hon. Secretary's and Treasurer's Expenses :—		
22 Associates ...	2	15 0	Postages	0	16 11½
	6	9 0	Stationery	0	7 0
Balance	0	8 5½	Prizes	0	17 6
	6	17 5½	Accounts per Receipts	0	15 0
	6	17 5½		6	17 5½
Cash in hand, October 1st, 1918 ...	3	11 6		£	s. d.
Debit Balance, 1918-1919 ...	0	8 5½			
Amount carried forward to 1919-1920 ...	3	3 0½			

REGINALD G. WILLIAMS, Acting Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.
Audited and found correct,

JAMES CRANSHAW, Hon. Auditor.

The Fifth Annual Meeting of the North-Western Branch was held in the Mayor's Dining Room, at Bolton Town Hall, on Wednesday, August 27th, and was presided over by Mr. Archibald Sparke, F.R.S.L., F.L.A., Chief Librarian, Bolton Public Libraries.

On taking the chair, Mr. Sparke said it was his privilege to introduce Dr. Baker, M.A., Director of the new School of Librarianship in the University of London. Continuing, he stated that the full-fledged Library School had at last been established, and now it is here—or rather in London. Distance will not count with some, but it most decidedly will with others, and possibly the establishment of Library Classes up and down the country, with final examination at the London University, will be the natural provision for those provincial assistants who either cannot afford to be resident in London, or for some reason are prevented from taking up the course of study there.

The only concern one may be pardoned for feeling in connection with the School is whether positions can be found for students when they have been through their studies. Unless this is clearly stated and supported with argument it may deter many likely young people from taking up the course. No doubt Dr. Baker will give us his views on the matter.

The training of librarians is to become a great factor in future library administration; good systems and methods are easily spoiled by bad assistants, and it is undoubtedly a step in the right direction to have a School of Librarianship; it foreshadows a higher status for the profession and commencement of a new era for librarianship.

A properly organised School, which, under Dr. Baker's guidance, he was sure we shall have, will tend to improve library assistants very considerably, and will help to produce uniformity in libraries throughout the country. The greater demand foreshadowed for public libraries will call for specially trained men, and these will be required if we are to keep our right place in the educational system of the country.

Dr. Baker said he was very pleased to have the opportunity of addressing the library authorities and members of the library profession on the work of the new School of Librarianship. He took a very optimistic view of the future, as he had always done. For a number of years he had been accused of being too optimistic, but one of his ideals (the School of Librarianship) was now an established fact. He considered that the training of library assistants was one of the most important reforms to take place, as the future needs of education and commerce will demand a very high qualification from the future librarian.

The School will be organised so as to give a systematic training on a broad basis to students who are already librarians or who propose to adopt Librarianship as their profession. It will also be available for others who desire to increase their knowledge in one or other branches of its work.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH.

A Meeting of the Yorkshire Branch was held at Halifax, on Wednesday, 24th September, Mr. G.W. Strother presiding. Members assembled at the Central Library at 3 o' clock, and were welcomed by Alderman A. Taylor, J.P., Chairman of the Halifax Education and Public Libraries' Committees. In a felicitous speech, he extended a warm welcome to the Association, and expressed the hope that we should not only do good work, but also make the best use of our visit to Halifax. The President and Mr Treliving thanked Alderman Taylor for the hearty welcome accorded the Branch. In the unavoidable absence of Dr. E. A. Baker, Director of the School of Librarianship, Mr. W. C. Berwick Sayers and Mr. L. Stanley Jast attended. Mr. Sayers gave an address on the New School, in the course of which he outlined its foundation, aims and scope, and the transfer of the control of Public Libraries from the Local Government Board to the Board of Education. A long discussion followed, Messrs. Pollitt, Treliving, Goulsen, the Secretary, and Mr. Ostler, Secretary to the Halifax Education Committee, taking part. Mr. Jast also spoke, sympathising with the criticism, and advising the Branch to welcome the School as a first step, at the same time asking for the establishment of a School in the North, preferably associated with some municipality. Mr. Sayers replied, and the afternoon session was concluded. The evening session commenced at 7 p.m., Mr. Procter (Leeds) reading a paper entitled, "The Library Profession under the New Régime." Mr. Procter dealt chiefly with the question of the future control of public libraries, and justified the Library Association in opposing a policy which must substitute an Education Committee for a Library Committee. A discussion followed, in which Miss Hummerston (Leeds), Miss Miller (Huddersfield), and Messrs. Jast, Sayers, Ostler, Pollitt and the Secretary took part. Mr. Procter replied. A business meeting followed, at which the following resolution was carried:—

"That the Library Association be asked to reconsider their position with regard to the present education scheme of the University College, London, as far as it affects Assistant Librarians at present holding the diploma or certificates of the Library Association. The Branch views with grave misgiving the possible award of any alternative diploma or certificates (to students who might have no practical experience of library work) which might thereby depreciate the value of L.A. Diploma and Certificates."

The President reported the election of Mr. J. A. Butterfield (Bradford) to the vacant vice-presidency, and Messrs. Boardman and Robertshaw were elected to the vacancies on Committee.

PORT ELIZABETH PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Sub-Librarian.

Applications are invited for the appointment of Sub-Librarian of the Public Library, Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

Candidates must be of good education and address, unmarried, not more than twenty-five years of age, and have had at least seven years' experience of public library work. A good knowledge of cataloguing, card charging and decimal classification is essential. The appointment will be subject to a three years' agreement and second class passage by Mail steamer will be allowed. Salary, commencing from date of embarkation, £210 for 1st year; £250 2nd year; £300 3rd year. Applications, with copies of three recent testimonials, should be forwarded to Q.M.S. Chambers, R.E., 38, Cleave Road, Gillingham, Kent, not later than Saturday, 8th November, 1919.

Library position in London required by a young lady possessing all the Library Association certificates, and furnished with the highest testimonials. Commencing salary required—£160 per annum. Particulars from the Hon. Secretary, Bromley Library, Poplar, E. 14.

L. A. Correspondence Classes.—Owing to a new Army Order, a large number of men will be released from military service at the beginning of November, and in the interests of those returning to library work the L.A. Education Committee has arranged for additional students to be received for the present Correspondence Classes up till November 29th. Assistants wishing to take advantage of this concession should make application to the Officers of the Association, Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W. 1, at the earliest possible moment.

CHANGES AND APPOINTMENTS.

MR. H. P. DINELLI, sub-librarian, to be chief librarian, Hammersmith. MISS N. GREGORY to be a senior assistant, Croydon.

*MR. A. J. HAWKES, National Library of Wales, to be chief librarian, Wigan. The other selected candidates were: Messrs. †Dallimore (Darlington), Mee (Wigan), *Pollitt (Leeds), and *Warner (Croydon). Mr. Warner withdrew, having been appointed chief librarian, Newport.

*MR. J. ROSS, of Liverpool, has been appointed instructor in classification, Central Technical School, Liverpool.

*MR. H. A. SHARP, librarian-in-charge, Croydon Central Lending Library, to be deputy librarian.

*MR. F. S. SMITH, senior assistant, Wood Green, to be senior assistant, Bethnal Green.

MR. E. E. SKUCE, sub-librarian, Oxford, to be chief librarian in place of Mr. J. L. Dougan.

*MR. J. WARNER, deputy librarian, Croydon, to be chief librarian, Newport, Mon. The other selected candidates were: Messrs. Hawkes (National Library of Wales), *Rees (Cardiff), *Ross (Liverpool), and *Walker (Tottenham). Mr. Ross withdrew.

* Member, L.A.A. † Fellow, L.A.A.

It has come to the knowledge of the Honorary Assistant Editor that one of the parcels of " Library Assistants " was insufficiently stamped. She hopes that there are no further cases of this kind, but if so, she wishes to explain that the mistake is due to an error in the interpretation of the regulations by the officials at the local Post Office, where all the parcels despatched are previously weighed.

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(Central Library, Town Hall, Croydon).

No. 31.

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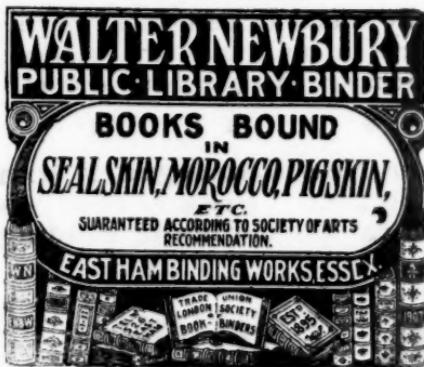
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